



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: FIGHTING GRAFFITI WITH A LEGAL “GRAFFITI WALL”

Today, Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced a resolution calling for the City to examine creating a “graffiti wall” which would legally allow graffiti artists to practice their craft at a specific designated site.

“Too much graffiti defaces urban Honolulu. While we have numerous laws clearly outlining criminal punishment of graffiti, it continues to plague our community. A municipal ‘graffiti wall’ that allows graffiti artists to legally practice their craft at a designated area is a creative concept that some municipal governments adopted to successfully reduce the proliferation of graffiti in their communities. I think the City Council should explore the viability of this idea for Honolulu,” stated Councilmember Djou.

Some mainland cities have legalized specific designated areas for graffiti. In one such program in Redmond, Washington, the city designated a particular municipal wall for graffiti and then paints over the wall every month. This “graffiti wall” program provides an outlet for youth and reduced the amount of illegal graffiti around the community. Councilmember Djou investigated the feasibility of a “graffiti wall” program at the suggestion of officers from HPD.

Councilmember Djou declared, “Under the law today, not only is graffiti illegal, but the City Council recently increased fines, parents may be held liable for graffiti damage, and minors are banned from possessing graffiti instruments. Some ‘outside the box’ solutions may be what we need to fight this community problem.”

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